

Message Text

SECRET

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4040

S E C R E T MADRID 8928

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (KING JUAN CARLOS)

SUBJ: MEETING WITH THE KING

1. I CALLED ON KING JUAN CARLOS THIS MORNING FOR A BRIEF CON-
VERSATION BEFORE HE LEFT TO ATTEND A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR
FRANCO AT THE VALLEY OF THE FALLEN WHICH IS THE LAST ACT IN
THE FORMAL MOURNING PERIOD.

2. THE KING TOLD ME THAT HE HAD BEEN VERY PLEASED BY REPORTS
OF THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA. THE
LATTER HAD BRIEFED HIM FULLY LAST EVENING. HE THOUGHT THAT
THE MEETING HAD BEEN A VERY POSITIVE ONE. I ALSO WENT OVER
THE POINTS WHICH HAD BEEN COVERED AND SAID THAT I WOULD BE
MEETING WITH AREILZA ON THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 23 TO TRY TO
WORK OUT A TIMETABLE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY
AGREEMENTS. I SAID THAT WITH RESPECT TO THE QUID, WE DID HAVE
SOME CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEMS, BUT AS THE SECRETARY PROMISED, HE
WOULD SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE FURTHER TO HELP. THE KING SAID HE
KNEW THE SECRETARY WOULD DO WHATEVER HE COULD TO HELP.

3. THE KING ALSO EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT THE PROSPECT OF
THE SECRETARY'S VISIT FOLLOWING HIS MOSCOW TRIP. HE SAID
HE UNDERSTOOD IT MIGHT BE ABOUT JANUARY 26.

4. I ALSO DREW THE KING'S PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO WHAT
THE SECRETARY HAD SAID TO AREILZA ABOUT THEIR BEING NO
PRESSURE FROM THE US TO MOVE AT A PACE FASTER THAN WHAT

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THE KING AND THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED TOLERABLE. THE

KING EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION AND SAID THAT MOST OF THE PRESSURE FOR A FASTER PACE CAME FROM WITHIN SPAIN, PARTICULARLY FROM THE COMMUNISTS.

5. THE KING ALSO SAID THAT ONE OF HIS PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS WAS THAT THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE ALLEGING TO SPEAK IN HIS NAME AND THAT THIS WAS CAUSING DIFFICULTIES AND EMBARRASMENTS FOR HIM. HE WAS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, BOTH PERSONALLY AND BY TELEPHONE, IN ORDER TO KEEP MATTERS ON AN EVEN KEEL AND TO ASSURE ARIAS THAT HE CONTINUED TO HAVE THE KING'S CONFIDENCE. AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW EFFORTS ARE MADE TO STIR MATTERS UP, HE CITED THE ALLEGATION THAT HE HAS RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM HIS FATHER WHICH WAS NOT ADDRESSED TO "HIS MAJESTY THE KING", BUT RATHER TO "HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS". THE FACT IS THAT HIS FATHER DID SEND HIM A MESSAGE AND IT WAS ADDRESSED TO HIM AS KING. THE PROBLEM WAS TO TRY TO LAY ALL THESE RUMORS TO REST BEFORE THEY CAUSED TROUBLE.

6. THE KING ALSO SPOKE WARMLY ABOUT THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE CORTES, TORCUATO FERNANDEZ-MIRANDA. HE CONSIDERED HIM ABSOLUTELY LOYAL AND WITH AN OPEN MIND TOWARD POLITICAL EVOLUTION, IN THIS RESPECT, HE SAID FERNANDEZ-MIRANDA BELIEVED IT WAS A MISTAKE TO HOLD THE ELECTION OF MAYORS AND PROVINCIAL PRESIDENTS NEXT MONTH SINCE THEY WOULD BE ELECTED BY MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES WHICH HAD BEEN APPOINTED UNDER THE OLD SYSTEM. IT WAS FAR BETTER THAT THESE ELECTIONS BE PUT OFF UNTIL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS COULD THEMSELVES ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE. FERNANDEZ-MIRANDA HAD ALREADY INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT THAT HE WOULD ADVISE THE KING NOT TO SIGN THE DECREE CONVOKING ELECTIONS NEXT MONTH.

7. FINALLY, THE KING SAID HE WOULD BE GOING AWAY FOR FIVE DAYS OR SO OVER CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR FOR A SKIING HOLIDAY WITH HIS FAMILY.
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